

Kirke Swann's 'Synoptical List of the Accipitres.'¹—Part IV of this work brings it to a conclusion and from the preface which accompanies it we learn that it is largely based upon the late Dr. Bowdler-Sharpe's 'Catalogue of the Accipitres in the British Museum,' the author's annotated copy with his additions having been accessible to Mr. Swann; and also upon Mr. W. L. Selater's manuscript list of the specimens in the Museum. While the author uses subspecies extensively he does not seem to recognize intergradation as the criterion upon which they must be distinguished from species since he recognizes three 'species' of our American Sparrow Hawks, all of which are usually regarded as subspecies of *sparverius*.

He also considers that the dark Gyrfalcons which visit Canada in winter as young of *F. rusticolus candicans* rather than true *rusticolus*.

While Mr. Swann's little work summarizes our present systematic knowledge of the Accipitres it seems to indicate that much has still to be accomplished before we are prepared to satisfactorily monograph the group.—W. S.

Bibliography of British Ornithology.²—The third part of the 'Biographical Bibliography of British Ornithology' by Messrs. Mullens, Swann and Jourdain contains the contributions to county ornithology from Middlesex to Surry. One will gain some idea of the extent of the literature relating to the birds of the English counties when he finds that for Norfolk alone the authors have listed 600 titles, while the number of additions each year is constantly increasing. Few of our states can show such a bibliography while many of our counties are without any ornithological notes whatever. This work serves as an excellent illustration of the extent of intensive study of birds in Great Britain and the vast number of persons who are interested and capable of publishing local notes of value. Part four completes England and begins Wales.—W. S.

Brook's 'The Buzzard' at Home.¹—This little brochure is entitled "British Birds Photographic Series" and is apparently the first of the series. It consists of twelve excellent half-tone reproductions of photographs of the European Buzzard, its nest and young, with fourteen pages

¹ A Synoptical List of the Accipitres (Diurnal Birds of Prey). Part IV. Falconidae and Pandionidae. By H. Kirke Swann. London: John Wheldon & Co., 1920. Price 4s.

² A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology from the Earliest Times to the end of 1918. Arranged under Counties, being a Record of Printed Books, Published Articles, Notes and Records Relating to Local Avifauna. By W. H. Mullens, H. Kirke Swann and Rev. F. R. C. Jourdain. Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn, London. 1920. Part 3, 193-288; Part 4, 289-384. Price 6s. net. per part.

¹ The Buzzard at Home. By Arthur Brook, with 12 photographic plates. London: Witherby & Co. Price 3/6.

of text by Mr. Brook describing the habits of the birds and his experiences in photographing them. The whole forms an attractive and interesting contribution to the life history of this hawk, likely to lead others into the field of bird photography and the study of the living birds in which the author seems to be an adept.—W. S.

The Nebraska Waterfowl and their Food.²—This contribution from the Biological Survey consists of two parts, 'Waterfowl in Nebraska, by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser and 'Wild Duck Foods of the Sandhill Region of Nebraska' by W. L. McAtee.

The sandhill region of Nebraska, containing as it does innumerable small lakes and marshes is a natural resort of various species of waterfowl and the object of the present publication is to place those who may be interested in the conservation of these birds, data on their relative abundance and habits and the methods by which this region may be made more attractive for them. Dr. Oberholser visited most of the lakes and obtained a wealth of information regarding the birds which inhabit them as well as data on past and present conditions there. He has given lists of the species found on the more important lakes and an annotated list of all of the species observed, their habits, relative abundance, etc., together with warnings as to the dangers attending the draining of the lakes in the consequent extermination of the wildfowl.

Mr. McAtee has reported upon collections of the marsh vegetation gathered about a number of the lakes, pointing out the relative value of the various plants as duck food and suggesting other species which would probably thrive there if introduced.

As a whole the pamphlet, which we trust may have a wide circulation in the region of which it treats, gives to the sportsmen of Nebraska all of the data required in any effort that they may be inclined to make for the conservation of this natural breeding ground for the ducks. And in view of the rapid destruction of the former breeding grounds farther north, it is none too soon to take every opportunity to save all such regions as this, which still remain in the United States, from thoughtless destruction. It would be a fine thing if the Legislature of Nebraska would make this lake region a permanent State preserve for the breeding of waterfowl, which could apparently easily be done without any inconvenience to the grazing or farming interests as it is not suitable for either.—W. S.

Bartsch on the 'Bird Rookeries of the Tortugas.'¹—Among the contributions to the 'Annual Report' of the Smithsonian Institution for

² Waterfowl and Their Food Plants in the Sandhill Region of Nebraska. Part I. Waterfowl in Nebraska. By Harry C. Oberholser, Assistant Biologist. Part II. Wild-Duck Foods of the Sandhill Region of Nebraska. By W. L. McAtee, Assistant Biologist. Bulletin 794, U. S. Department of Agriculture. March 23, 1920, pp. 1-77, plates I-V.

¹ The Bird Rookeries of the Tortugas. By Paul Bartsch. Smithsonian Report for 1917, pages 469-500 (with 38 plates). Washington, 1919.